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Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 FEA-01 /152 W
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R 081545Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1853
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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COPENHAGEN, MEXICO CITY, TOKYO FOR RFA

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS FAO
SUBJ: CECAF MEETING ON FISHERIES RESOURCES I

1. SUMMARY: MOST FISHERY STOCKS IN CECAF REGION NOW HEAVILY FISHED. EFFORTS NOW BEING DIRECTED TOWARDS OBTAINING STATISTICAL DATA, WHICH WILL BE USED TO IMPLEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS NEEDED TO PROTECT MARINE RESOURCES. US SHRIMP INDUSTRY IN AFRICA MAY BE AFFECTED IN NEXT 2-3 YEARS. SOVIET UNION STRONGLY ATTACKED IN CECAF MEETING FOR NO SUPPLYING STATISTICAL CATCH DATA, EVEN THOUGH USSR CATCHES 30 PERCENT OF ALL FISH IN REGION AND EXPORTS 85 PERCENT OF ALL FROZEN FISH IMPORTED BY NATIONS IN REGION.
END SUMMARY BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
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2. FIRST SESSION OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON MAMAGEMENT OF RESOURCE WITHIN LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION OF FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF) MET IN LOME TOGO MARCH 1-2, 1977 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF Y MANGAMA, HEAD OF TOGOLESE DELEGATION. (BEGIN NOT FOR PRODUCTION-NON COASTAL STATE MEMBERS OF CECAF WERE EXCLUDED FROM MEETING. END NFP)

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3. SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINED REPORT OF THIRD SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON RESOURCE EVALUATION WHICH STATED THAT HAKE, SEABREAM, AND CEPHALOPODES IN NORTHERN REGION ARE BEING OVERFISHED WHILE SARDONES, SARDINELLAS, HORSE MACKERALS AND MACKERALS ARE BEING HEAVILY FISHED. IN GULF OF GUINEA MOST INSHORE SPECIES--INCLUDING PINK SHRIMP(PENAEUS DUORARUM)--ARE FULLY EXPLOITED AND FISHING FOR THESE SPECIES WILL HAVE TO BE LIMITED, POSSIBLY LIMITING FURTHER US VENTURES IN SHRIMPING IN CECAF AREA, OR POSSIBLY REDUCING OR LIMITING EXISTING US SHRIMPING IN REGION.

4. OPPORTUNITIES EXIST, HOWEVER, FOR INCREASING FISHING FOR TRUMPETFISH AND SARDINES OFF MOROCCO, FOR SOME DEMERSAL AND COASTAL PELAGIC STOCKS OFF GUINEA/SIERRA LEONE, AND FOR SARDINELLA BETWEEN GABON AND ANGOLA.

5. IN VIEW OF EXTENDED NATIONAL FISHERY LIMITS IT HAS BECOME A MATTER OF PRIORITY FOR THE CECAF COASTAL STATES TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS OF LOCAL AGENCIES IN ORDER TO MEET THEIR RESOURCE MANAGMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. SUBCOMMITTEE IDENTIFIED THREE AREAS WHERE ACTION WAS NEEDED:

A. DATA COLLECTION: A FISHERY STATISTICIAN WAS URGENTLY NEEDED BY CECAF PROJECT. COASTAL COUNTRIES WERE ASKED TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR REGULAR REPORTING OF CATCHES IN ALL FUTURE BILATERAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS. SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED COASTAL STATES REQUEST STATISTICAL DATA FOR YEARS 1964-1976 FROM ALL FOREIGN NATIONS WHO HAVE FISHED OFF CECAF COASTAL STATES IN PAST.
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B. RESOURCE EVALUATION: PROPER EVALUATION OF STOCKS CAN COME ONLY AFTER STATISTICAL DATA HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED AND ANALYZED. IN MEANTIME, NEED FOR TRAINING AND FOR COORDINATION IN RESOURCE RESEARCH BY MEMBER COASTAL STATES WAS EMPHASIZED.

C. MANAGEMENT: STUDIES ON MESH SIZES HAS BEGUN AND FEASIBILITY OF COMMON MESH SIZES, FOR VARIOUS FISHERIES, FOR CECAF REGION WILL BE EXAMINED ALONG WITH ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF NATIONAL CATCH QUOTAS AND/OR FLEET LIMITATIONS.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ENDED WITH CALLS FOR CECAF TO HOLD WORKSHOPS TO EXAMINE RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF REGION ON A SPECIES BY SPECIES BASIS.
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7. USSR CAME UNDER STRONG ATTACK IN MEETING, ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING RFA. REFERENCES IN PUBLISHED CECAF DOCUMENTS LIKEWISE

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CONDEMNED USSR AS FOLLOWS:
"SATISFACTORY STOCK ASSESSMENT IN THE REGION WILL ALWAYS
BE HARARDOUS AS LONG AS CATCH AND EFFORT DATA FOR THE
VARIOUS FISHING DIVISIONS ARE NOT COLLECTED SYSTEMATICALLY.
INDEED, UNTIL THE MOST IMPORTANT FISHING NATION IN THE
REGION, THE SOVIET UNION, SUPPLIES THESE DATA, SUCH STOCK
ASSESSMENT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE." (AN OVERVIEW OF THE STATE
OF FISHERY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN THE CECAF REGION,
CECAF/V/77/16, P 20)

8. USSR, IT WAS POINTED OUT, CAUGHT 1,145,000 MT OR 31 PERCENT
OF TOTAL 3,696,500 MT CAUGHT IN CECAF REGION BY SOME 39 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES IN 1974. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT ABOUT 85 PERCENT
OF ALL FROZEN FISH SUPPLIED TO THE REGION CAME FROM THE
USSR, WITH THE REMAINING 15 PERCENT COMING MAINLY FROM POLAND,
BULGARIA, JAPAN, AND SPAIN. MOST OF THIS FISH, IF NOT ALL,
IT WAS FELT BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, CAME FROM AFRICAN WATERS.
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FEELINGS, THUS, WERE RATHER STRONG RE USSR'S LACK OF
PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS AND ITS FAILURE TO SUPPLY STATIS-
TICAL DATA. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, HOWEVER, DID NOT MAKE PUBLIC
CRITICISM OF USSR, A MOVE WHICH, APPARENTLY, ANGERED SOME
DELEGATES. END LOU. PALMER

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